Romans 13

ASVh with Comments

Summary. In this chapter, the Holy Spirit teaches believers to obey the authority appointed by the Lord God Almighty, love one another, leave the works of darkness, and use the Holy Word as the shield for protection. The beloved Son of God is the true light and the example for all humans on how to live to be pleasing to God the Father. **Romans 13:1-7.** "For there is no authority except from God." Everything is under the authority of the Lord God Almighty, and the authorities that exist have been appointed by Him. The one who resists authority also resists what has been appointed from above and will receive judgment. The Lord God Almighty sets up rulers to guide, and people must do their duty, obey the law, and support the work of those who rule. The flow of life and society will be in unity if everyone does their own duties as the Lord intends them to. **Romans 13:8-14.** Love one another. The Lord God Almighty loves everyone, and everyone who believes should follow His way of life: love is the basis of life for all believers and the fullness of the law is love. The Lord God Almighty has prepared salvation through the beloved Son of God; use the Holy Word as the shield for protection and leave the works of darkness. The beloved Son of God is the true light and an example for all humans on how to live to be pleasing to God the Father.

[1] Let every soul be subject to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from **God**; however, the existing are appointed by **God**.

> **Comments Romans 13:1.** "Let every soul be subject to the higher authorities." Everything is under the authority of the Lord God Almighty, but in the human world there are also authorities between humans themselves. The human authorities answer to someone above them; however, in this world itself, the Lord God Almighty has the highest authority above all.
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> "For there is no authority except from God." When the Lord God Almighty gives someone authority to rule, but this rule is not controlled, He does not control that person like a robot; instead, He guides their soul to follow the right authority.
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> "However, the existing are appointed by God." Regardless of what humans think, the Lord God Almighty has set authority for someone to have a duty in guiding. And that duty is the duty appointed directly, so no one has authority to challenge what has been appointed from above.
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> **Q:** What happens to bad rulers and why are they allowed to rule? **A:** No one knows the heart of a man, whether joyful, sad, or tormented. The outside may show a fake appearance, but no one can truly know the internal suffering; only the people close by may witness it. When you look at colors, black and white are different side by side; but the color of the heart no one can see. Suffering during life cannot compare to the eternal suffering in the spiritual world.
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> **Q:** Why does God appoint rulers that do evil things in the world? **A:** Humans, when they see a bad leader and a good leader, can tell the difference between them. Without the bad, the good will not shine out: that is the answer. When humans have problems and cannot solve them, they will seek the higher authority; and only the highest authority, which is from the Lord God Almighty, can help them, and humans will turn to seek help from the Lord.

[2] Therefore the one resisting the authority, has resisted the ordinance of **God**; and those having resisted will receive upon themselves judgment.

> **Comments Romans 13:2.** "Therefore the one resisting the authority." Let everyone remember as well that the one that has authority has received the duty from the Lord God Almighty to rule.
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> "Has resisted the ordinance of God." When the heart is not subordinate to authority, that heart also will lead the person to not be submissive to the Lord God Almighty Himself.
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> "And those having resisted will receive …" In the human world and spiritual world, the one who resists the authority will receive judgment. In this world the judgment may be unfair, but in the spiritual world, the Lord God Almighty He is judge and the judgment will be fair because there is nothing that can buy or pay to receive favor, and judgment will be for eternity; receive reward or punishment, both go for eternity.

[3] For rulers are not a fear to the good work, but to the evil. And do you desire no fear of the authority? Do the good, and you will have praise from it.

Comments Romans 13:3. "For rulers are not a fear to the good work …" To be able to achieve the work that the Lord God Almighty wants you to have, set your mind firm and trust in protection from the Lord God Almighty. Fear will give a chance for the mind to not follow what has been telling in the heart what to follow. When you do the good work and follow the guidance of the Holy Scripture, do not worry of anything, because worry in something will open the door for the fear to enter. Remember the good ruler that follows the voice of the Holy Spirit has been set from the Lord God Almighty, and that ruler will not have fear in doing the good work. When the rulers follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the people will follow to do good works and have no fear of evil, because the evil cannot fight the good works if that good work has been guided by the Holy Spirit.

"And do you desire no fear of the authority?" Ask your heart where your fear stays. Bring that fear and ask for the protection and mercy from the Lord God Almighty, and that fear in your heart will be controlled; and the Lord will give you peace.

"Do the good, and you will have praise from it." When you do what the Holy Spirit is guiding you to do, people will see and feel, and the work that you do will encourage the people to have faith in the Lord God Almighty. Your good works become the tool to build up the faith in people's hearts.

[4] For he is a servant of **God** to you for good; but if you do evil, be afraid; for he wears not the sword in vain; for he is a servant of **God**, an avenger for wrath to the one doing evil.

Comments Romans 13:4. "For he is a servant of God to you …" When the Lord God Almighty has approved someone to be a ruler, all people must be ready and do according to what the ruler has set for people to follow. If the ruler does wrong, the Lord God Almighty will judge him, but you who are below must follow; do not rebel against what has been given as a law to do.

Q: What about in a democratic country as we have today? **A:** The world nowadays uses a group of people to make decisions and sets one up to speak for them, but the people must follow the law of the country.

"For he wears not the sword in vain …" The Lord God Almighty supports the chain of ruling; when He has set up the ruler, the people's duty is to obey the law where they are. In that law itself there is reward and punishment; you must follow the law; if you disobey the law, the Lord God Almighty will also judge you; besides, being punished by the law of the country, your own internal soul will not have peace from the Lord God Almighty Himself.

Q: These days we have many countries which do not follow the commandments of God in their country laws. **A:** Correct, even if they are not following the law of the Lord Himself, the right and wrong of the law still apply to follow; the one who is responsible to set up the law will be judged by the Lord God Almighty Himself. Those who go against the commandments receive their own punishment, but you as a believer, regardless of where you are, in your home let the law of the Lord God Almighty be your law.

[5] Therefore it is necessary to be subject, not only on account of the wrath, but also on account of the conscience.

Comments Romans 13:5. "Therefore it is necessary to be subject …" Be mindful, all believers, and think carefully before engaging yourself in something. You have the Holy Spirit in you; use that gift for guidance. Pray before engaging yourself in all things, and you will receive the guidance.

"But also on account of the conscience." The Lord God Almighty gives every human conscience to know right and wrong; in each moment you can have guidance; in your own subconscious, you will have the voice reminding you to pray to God before engaging yourself in doubtful activities.

Q: What is this conscience? **A:** Everyone has knowledge in them between right and wrong, and this is put in every soul by God, and that is the conscience. Conscience acts at the point of decision to do something; and you can see two ways to go: your conscience helps you in choosing between them. For all believers, their conscience will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

[6] For because of this you pay taxes also; for they are servants of **God**, devoting themselves upon this very thing.

Comments Romans 13:6. "For because of this you pay taxes also." The Lord God Almighty justifies taxation to help people in working; as believers, each has a duty to support this work and those who do their duty. The Lord sets up people to be rulers, and the rulers give out the rules for people to follow. To make the community function, believers must pay taxes in supporting the rulers.

"For they are servants of God …" When the Lord sets rulers up to rule, the need to give them income is the duty of people. People must do their duty, and the rulers also must do their own duty. The rulers' income comes from the hard work of people, and they must work to uphold the rules in order to maintain control and make the community able to function as a whole.

7 Render to all their dues: the tax, to whom the tax; the revenue, to whom the revenue; the fear, to whom the fear; the honor, to whom the honor.

Comments Romans 13:7. Give attention, all readers: the Lord God Almighty has everything in its own position and duty. Each deserves what the value of its own purpose truly is. The faithful follower must also do his own duty. The Lord God Almighty sets everything as it should be; the flow of life and society will be in unity if everyone does their own duties as the Lord intends them to.

8 To no one owe anything, except to love one another; for the one loving the other has fulfilled the law.

Comments Romans 13:8. "To no one owe anything, except to love one another." The Lord God Almighty loves everyone, so everyone should follow the example. Life belongs to the Lord God Almighty: give respect to each life in the way the Lord has created it.

"For the one loving the other …" When all the things were created, the Lord God Almighty gave each its own way and responsibility. As believers follow the purpose of life: loving others makes life fulfill the purpose God has given it. The Lord God Almighty loves everyone; everyone that believes should follow the Lord God Almighty's way of life: love is the basis of life for all believers.

9 For, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet, and if any other commandment, this it is summed up in the word, in the: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Comments Romans 13:9. "For, You shall not commit adultery …" Give attention, all believers. The Lord God Almighty wants to point out in this part that the Lord God Almighty, Creator of all, does not want any believer to have bad behavior and bad thoughts toward anyone, regardless of whether they are a believer or not; love is for all regardless of who they are. You cannot stop yourself from doing bad to people, but if you have the love of God in your heart, this will be the shield and guide for all your behavior.

"And if any other commandment …" Love is a gift from God; everyone has love for themselves, but you as a believer, remember that the love of the Lord God Almighty is for everyone; you receive the love from the Lord God Almighty the same as everybody, and for that, if you love yourself, you shall love others as well.

10 The love to the neighbor works no bad; therefore, the fullness of the law is love.

Comments Romans 13:10. "The love to the neighbor works no bad." The Lord God Almighty created all humans to live together in peace. The Lord God Almighty loves all humans, and that love should reflect in the heart of all. When the heart has love, the wish to do bad to others will not occur. Live together with peace and love for one another.

"The fullness of the law is love." The Lord God Almighty created all things out of love; love is a deep feeling, not only words. When that deep feeling is in the heart, one has fulfilled the law that the Lord God Almighty has as His purpose in creation.

11 And this, knowing the time, that already it is the hour for you to awake out of sleep; for now is the salvation nearer to us than when we first believed.

Comments Romans 13:11. "And this, knowing the time …" When people do many bad deeds against the commandments of God, let all believers open their physical and spiritual eyes and ears. The Lord God Almighty has put a warning for all believers: stay firm and meditate. Hard times for believers are approaching, but the way to protect yourselves has been given in the Holy Bible.

"For now is the salvation nearer to us …" The Lord God Almighty has prepared the salvation for all believers through the beloved Son of God: the crucifixion of the beloved Son of God opened the path for salvation

for all. Come and walk through the narrow path, leave the convenience of life and the troubles around the world. The salvation of souls is approaching, and the returning time of the beloved Son of God is at hand; be cheered up and use the Holy Word as the shield for protection. The hope for eternal life is at hand.

[12] The night is advanced, and the day has drawn near; therefore, we should put off the works of darkness, and we should put on the armor of light.

Comments Romans 13:12. "The night is advanced, and the day …" With great mercy the Lord God Almighty has sent His beloved Son to come down on earth. The beloved Son of God is the light for the world. The physical light for life has been given from the beginning, but the spiritual light for the soul has come with the beloved Son: the beloved Son gives light to the soul and leads the soul to salvation. Do not ignore the spiritual light because the soul will fall into the pit of darkness.

Q: What does it really mean when the verse says, "the night is advanced"? **A:** The ignorant mind of humans tries to change and ignore the Holy Word, which opens the way for the dark to cover the mind. The protection from the true light is coming if you come to the true light: the Lord Jesus Christ.

"We should put off the works of darkness." The Lord God Almighty gives true light for the soul through the beloved Son of God. Leave all activities that go against the teachings of the Holy Bible; walk the narrow way which leads to the true light, and the soul will be saved.

"We should put on the armor of light." The Lord God Almighty gives the Holy Word for all humans. The beloved Son of God is the true light that will help humans to walk through. Use the Holy Word as the shield not only for the physical but also for the spiritual. The material covering helps the physical body to stay warm, but the spiritual covering through the true light, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Word will shield and protect the soul.

[13] As in the day, we should walk nobly; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy.

Comments Romans 13:13. "As in the day, we should walk nobly." Believers, when you do your things each day, you must always remember in your mind who the Lord of your life is. The Lord God Almighty chose you for a purpose; your behavior must always reflect whom you belong to.

"Not in reveling and drunkenness …" When you read this verse, you must meditate and think. The Lord God Almighty also gives this verse for you to think about it and check yourself. The Lord God Almighty wants you to be an example for everyone that you meet; likewise, in your living, you must be an example to the people to whom you belong and the people you interact with each day of your life.

[14] But put on the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for desires for the flesh.

Comments Romans 13:14. "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ." God the Father sent the beloved Son Jesus Christ to be born as a human. He may not have lived as a human for a very long time on earth, but in His living life He had been an example for all humans; to be a true believer, you must follow the true example of life: the Lord Jesus. The beloved Son of God is an example for all humans on how to live to be pleasing to God the Father.

"And make not provision for desires …" The beloved Son of God did not live for His own pleasure of this earth, but the way of His life remains only for glorifying God the Father and doing the Father's will.

Life and Faith Applications. 1) As followers of the Lord Jesus, we must be subject to the authority of God, for He is the highest authority. We also must be subject to the authorities appointed by God among humans, doing our duty and obeying the law as the Lord intends. 2) Be subject to the authorities appointed by God among humans; pay all taxes and revenues required by the law and do your duty. 3) "To no one owe anything, except to love one another;" do no bad to anyone and show love to all, for the love to the neighbor works no bad. 4) The returning time of the beloved Son of God is at hand; put off the works of darkness and do not let yourself be tempted by the desires of the flesh. 5) Stay in the Word of God, meditate on the Holy Word, follow the example of the Lord Jesus, the true light, and pray for protection from the Holy Spirit.